Patent Claims

1. A driving assistance apparatus for cruise control for a vehicle (10, 27), characterized in that the apparatus has receiving means (25) for reception of a danger alarm (54, 70), which is transmitted without the use of wires at least outside the vehicle (10, 27), and/or of a switch-off command (35), which is formed by a transmitting/receiving device (30) in the vehicle (10, 27) from the danger alarm (54, 70), and in that the apparatus is designed for self-deactivation as a function of the danger alarm (54, 70) and/or cannot be activated as a function of the danger alarm (54, 70).

2. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the apparatus is designed for self-deactivation and/or cannot be activated in conjunction with the danger alarm (54, 70) as a function of a current speed of travel (vl) of the vehicle (10, 27) and/or of a preset speed of travel.

3. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the apparatus is designed for self-deactivation and/or cannot be activated in conjunction with the danger alarm (54, 70) as a function of the current distance (d) from a preceding vehicle (27).

4. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus is designed to reduce the speed of travel (vl) of the vehicle (10, 27) before its self-deactivation.

5. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus cannot be activated for a predetermined latency time after reception of the danger alarm (54, 70).

6. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus can receive the danger alarm (54, 70) or the switch-off command (35) via a bus in the vehicle.

7. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the danger alarm (54, 70) is transmitted by a fixed-position transmitting device (30, 70) or by a vehicle transmitting device (30, 70) provided in a second vehicle (10, 27).

8. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus has output means for outputting in particular visual and/or audible and/or tactile warning information (46) to the driver (14) of the vehicle (10, 27).

9. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the output means output the warning information (46) before deactivation of the driving assistance apparatus (19).

10. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the self-deactivation is carried out when the driver (14) has acknowledged the warning information (46) by means of a

predetermined control action, or when the driver (14) has not acknowledged the warning information (46).

11. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus is designed for adaptive cruise control which takes account of the distance (d) from a preceding vehicle (27).

12. A transmitting/receiving device (30) for interaction with a driving assistance apparatus (19) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the device has receiving means (32) for reception of a danger alarm (54, 70), which is transmitted without the use of wires at least outside the vehicle (10, 27), and in that the device has interface means (34) for transmission of the danger alarm (54, 70) and/or of a switch-off command (35), which is formed from the danger alarm (54, 70), to the driving assistance apparatus (19).

13. The driving assistance apparatus as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11 or the transmitting/receiving device (30) as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the apparatus or device has a program code which can be run by a processor which, in particular, is contained in a traction control apparatus and/or a motor or engine control apparatus for a traction motor or engine (16) in the vehicle (10, 27).

14. A storage means having a driving assistance apparatus and/or a transmitting/receiving device (30) as claimed in claim 13.

15. A vehicle, in particular a passenger vehicle, characterized in that the vehicle contains a driving assistance apparatus (19) as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11 or 13, and/or a transmitting/receiving device (30) as claimed in claim 12 or 13, and/or a storage means as claimed in claim 14.

16. A method for cruise control of a vehicle (10, 27), characterized by reception of a danger alarm (54, 70), which is transmitted without the use of wires at least outside the vehicle (10, 27), and by deactivation of the cruise control as a function of the danger alarm (54, 70) and/or switching off the activation capability for the cruise control as a function of the danger alarm (54, 70).